



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2008

Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446

Cell phone: +389 (0)70 367 547

Email: bvelickovska@usaid.gov

PRESS RELEASE

First Municipal Loan Utilized for Karpos School

Today, November 3rd, 2008, the Municipality of Karpos will hold an opening ceremony for the newly-built primary school J. A. Komenski. The Municipality of Karpos secured a loan to finish construction of the new school building, representing the first loan agreement by a municipality to finance public needs in Macedonia. The \$635,000.00 USD Loan Agreement, which will be guaranteed by the USAID Development Credit Authority (DCA) was made by UNI Bank. The DCA facility is designed to support funding for energy efficiency and other infrastructure development projects in municipalities.

By utilization of municipal credit via the DCA, the Municipality of Karpos completed the construction of the primary school "Jan Amos Komenski" focusing on energy efficiency. The installation of an energy efficient heating system, electricity and lighting, and roof construction will enable much more efficient use of energy and lead to a significant reduction of operating costs.

"USAID is proud to partner with UNI Bank and Karpos Municipality to help secure this loan - the first municipal loan in Macedonia - to finish the construction of this school," said USAID Mission Director Michael Fritz in his address to the audience. "Successful decentralization of government authority -- as prescribed by the Framework Agreement -- is a priority that the US Government shares with the Republic of Macedonia. The success of municipalities will mean the country's success. Improved local infrastructure will mean more jobs, better services for citizens and a better learning environment for Macedonia's children."

USAID's Local Government Activity, which assisted the Municipality of Karpos in qualifying for this loan, helps Macedonian municipalities by supporting the development of the intergovernmental finance system; improving municipal financial management capacities; strengthening the creditworthiness of municipalities; improving tax and fee collection; helping municipalities stimulate local economic development; and increasing local government transparency and accountability.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.